

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1     1.     A method comprising:  
2         maintaining a list of people associated with a user;  
3         inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion  
4         of the person in a contact list of a second person, wherein the second person is not the  
5         user;  
6         adding the inferred person to the list of people associated with the user; and  
7         using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based  
8         on whether the others are included on the list.
- 1     2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the person is included in a contact list of the user.
- 1     3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the contact list of the user is a buddy list.
- 1     4.     The method of claim 1 wherein the communications comprise e-mail  
2         communications, the method further comprising inferring that a person is associated with  
3         the user based, at least in part, on positive user actions related to e-mail communications  
4         from the person.
- 1     5.     The method of claim 4 wherein the positive actions include sending an e-mail to the  
2         person.
- 1     6.     The method of claim 4 wherein the positive actions include replying to, forwarding,  
2         saving, or printing an e-mail received from the person.
- 1     7.     The method of claim 4 wherein the positive actions include moving an e-mail from a  
2         first folder to a second folder.
- 1     8.     The method of claim 7 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second  
2         folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

- 1 9. The method of claim 4 wherein the positive action includes maintaining an e-mail  
2 from the person in an open state for a predetermined period of time.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising inferring that a person is associated with  
2 the user based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the  
3 person.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the communication is an instant messaging  
2 communication.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2 includes detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to  
3 infer a person is associated with the user.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 report a communication from the person as spam.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 add a person to a blacklist.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein people associated with the user are people not  
2 distrusted by the user.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list  
2 such that communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam  
3 filtering.
- 1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict  
2 received communications to those communications from people on the list.

1       19.     The method of claim 18 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1       20.     The method of claim 18 wherein the communications are instant messages.

1       21.     The method of claim 1 wherein people associated with the user are people known to  
2       the user.

1       22.     The method of claim 21 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a  
2       display of e-mail such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and  
3       e-mails from people not on the list are absent from the display.

1       23.     The method of claim 21 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a  
2       display of e-mail such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display  
3       and e-mails from people on the list are absent from the display.

1       24.     The method of claim 1 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict which  
2       instant messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant  
3       messaging interfaces associated with people on the list.

1       25.     The method of claim 1 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list  
2       operating in conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not  
3       on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the  
4       communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1       26.     The method of claim 25 wherein filtering communications comprises blocking the  
2       communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia  
3       that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1       27.     The method of claim 25 wherein filtering communications comprises placing  
2       communications from people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include  
3       indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account  
4       user.

1     28.     The method of claim 27 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child  
2             account user.

1     29.     The method of claim 25 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1     30.     The method of claim 1 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2             based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3             the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4             part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a contact list  
5             of the user.

1     31.     The method of claim 1 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2             based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3             the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4             part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a buddy list of  
5             the user.

1     32.     The method of claim 1 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2             based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3             the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4             part, on the inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who the user has added to  
5             a buddy list of the user.

1     33.     A method comprising:  
2             maintaining a list of people associated with a user;  
3             inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on a  
4             membership of the first person in a contact list that is associated with another person,  
5             wherein the contact list is not configured for direct access by the user;  
6             adding the inferred person to the list of people associated with the user; and  
7             using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based  
8             on whether the others are included on the list.

- 1     34.     The method of claim 33 wherein the person is included in a contact list of the user.
- 1     35.     The method of claim 34 wherein the contact list of the user is a buddy list.
- 1     36.     The method of claim 33 wherein the communications comprise e-mail  
2         communications, the method further comprising inferring that a person is associated with  
3         the user based, at least in part, on positive user actions related to e-mail communications  
4         from the person.
- 1     37.     The method of claim 36 wherein the positive actions include sending an e-mail to the  
2         person.
- 1     38.     The method of claim 36 wherein the positive actions include replying to, forwarding,  
2         saving, or printing an e-mail received from the person.
- 1     39.     The method of claim 36 wherein the positive actions include moving an e-mail from  
2         a first folder to a second folder.
- 1     40.     The method of claim 39 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second  
2         folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.
- 1     41.     The method of claim 36 wherein the positive action includes maintaining an e-mail  
2         from the person in an open state for a predetermined period of time.
- 1     42.     The method of claim 33 further comprising inferring that a person is associated with  
2         the user based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the  
3         person.
- 1     43.     The method of claim 42 wherein the communication is an instant messaging  
2         communication.

1     44.     The method of claim 33 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2           includes detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to  
3           infer a person is associated with the user.

1     45.     The method of claim 44 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2           report a communication from the person as spam.

1     46.     The method of claim 44 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2           add a person to a blacklist.

1     47.     The method of claim 44 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2           move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

1     48.     The method of claim 33 wherein people associated with the user are people not  
2           distrusted by the user.

1     49.     The method of claim 48 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list  
2           such that communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam  
3           filtering.

1     50.     The method of claim 33 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict  
2           received communications to those communications from people on the list.

1     51.     The method of claim 50 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1     52.     The method of claim 50 wherein the communications are instant messages.

1     53.     The method of claim 33 wherein people associated with the user are people known to  
2           the user.

1 54. The method of claim 53 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a  
2 display of e-mail such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and  
3 e-mails from people not on the list are absent from the display.

1 55. The method of claim 53 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a  
2 display of e-mail such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display  
3 and e-mails from people on the list are absent from the display.

1 56. The method of claim 33 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict  
2 which instant messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant  
3 messaging interfaces associated with people on the list.

1 57. The method of claim 33 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list  
2 operating in conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not  
3 on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the  
4 communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 58. The method of claim 57 wherein filtering communications comprises blocking the  
2 communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia  
3 that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 59. The method of claim 57 wherein filtering communications comprises placing  
2 communications from people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include  
3 indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account  
4 user.

1 60. The method of claim 59 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child  
2 account user.

1 61. The method of claim 57 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1     62.     The method of claim 33 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2           based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3           the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4           part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a contact list  
5           of the user.

1     63.     The method of claim 33 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2           based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3           the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4           part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a buddy list of  
5           the user.

1     64.     The method of claim 33 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2           based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3           the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4           part, on the inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who the user has added to  
5           a buddy list of the user.

1     65.     A method comprising:  
2           maintaining a list of people associated with a user;  
3           inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the  
4           characteristics of one or more contact lists associated with other users, wherein the  
5           contact lists associated with the other users include communication identifiers selected by  
6           the other users;  
7           adding the inferred person to the list of people associated with the user; and  
8           using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based  
9           on whether the others are included on the list.

1     66.     The method of claim 65 wherein the person is included in a contact list of the user.

1     67.     The method of claim 66 wherein the contact list of the user is a buddy list.



- 1     68.     The method of claim 65 wherein the communications comprise e-mail  
2             communications, the method further comprising inferring that a person is associated with  
3             the user based, at least in part, on positive user actions related to e-mail communications  
4             from the person.
- 1     69.     The method of claim 68 wherein the positive actions include sending an e-mail to the  
2             person.
- 1     70.     The method of claim 68 wherein the positive actions include replying to, forwarding,  
2             saving, or printing an e-mail received from the person.
- 1     71.     The method of claim 68 wherein the positive actions include moving an e-mail from  
2             a first folder to a second folder.
- 1     72.     The method of claim 71 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second  
2             folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.
- 1     73.     The method of claim 68 wherein the positive action includes maintaining an e-mail  
2             from the person in an open state for a predetermined period of time.
- 1     74.     The method of claim 65 further comprising inferring that a person is associated with  
2             the user based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the  
3             person.
- 1     75.     The method of claim 74 wherein the communication is an instant messaging  
2             communication.
- 1     76.     The method of claim 65 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2             includes detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to  
3             infer a person is associated with the user.

1 77. The method of claim 76 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 report a communication from the person as spam.

1 78. The method of claim 76 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 add a person to a blacklist.

1 79. The method of claim 76 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

1 80. The method of claim 65 wherein people associated with the user are people not  
2 distrusted by the user.

1 81. The method of claim 80 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list  
2 such that communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam  
3 filtering.

1 82. The method of claim 65 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict  
2 received communications to those communications from people on the list.

1 83. The method of claim 82 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 84. The method of claim 82 wherein the communications are instant messages.

1 85. The method of claim 65 wherein people associated with the user are people known to  
2 the user.

1 86. The method of claim 85 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a  
2 display of e-mail such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and  
3 e-mails from people not on the list are absent from the display.

1 87. The method of claim 85 wherein using the list comprises using the list to filter a  
2 display of e-mail such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display  
3 and e-mails from people on the list are absent from the display.

1 88. The method of claim 65 wherein using the list comprises using the list to restrict  
2 which instant messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant  
3 messaging interfaces associated with people on the list.

1 89. The method of claim 65 wherein using the list comprises using the list as a white list  
2 operating in conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not  
3 on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the  
4 communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 90. The method of claim 89 wherein filtering communications comprises blocking the  
2 communications from people not on the list when the communications include indicia  
3 that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 91. The method of claim 89 wherein filtering communications comprises placing  
2 communications from people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include  
3 indicia that the content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account  
4 user.

1 92. The method of claim 91 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child  
2 account user.

1 93. The method of claim 89 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 94. The method of claim 65 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4 part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a contact list  
5 of the user.

1 95. The method of claim 65 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4 part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a buddy list of  
5 the user.

1 96. The method of claim 65 wherein inferring that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user comprises inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in  
4 part, on the inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person who the user has added to  
5 a buddy list of the user.

1 97. A computer usable medium have a computer program embodied thereon, wherein the  
2 computer program comprises instructions for causing a computer to perform the  
3 following operations:

4 maintain a list of people associated with a user;  
5 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of  
6 the person in a contact list of a second person, wherein the second person is not the user;  
7 add the inferred person to the list of people associated with the user; and  
8 use the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based  
9 on whether the others are included on the list.

1 98. The medium of claim 97 wherein the person is included in a contact list of the user.

1 99. The medium of claim 98 wherein the contact list of the user is a buddy list.

1 100. The medium of claim 97 wherein the communications comprise e-mail  
2 communications, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a  
3 computer to infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on  
4 positive user actions related to e-mail communications from the person.

1 101. The medium of claim 100 wherein the positive actions include sending an e-mail to  
2 the person.

1 102. The medium of claim 100 wherein the positive actions include replying to,  
2 forwarding, saving, or printing an e-mail received from the person.

1 103. The medium of claim 100 wherein the positive actions include moving an e-mail  
2 from a first folder to a second folder.

1 104. The medium of claim 103 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second  
2 folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

1 105. The medium of claim 100 wherein the positive action includes maintaining an e-mail  
2 from the person in an open state for a predetermined period of time.

1 106. The medium of claim 97 wherein the computer program further comprises  
2 instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user  
3 based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the person.

1 107. The medium of claim 106 wherein the communication is an instant messaging  
2 communication.

1 108. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user,  
2 the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to detect  
3 user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to infer a person is  
4 associated with the user.

1 109. The medium of claim 108 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 report a communication from the person as spam.

1 110. The medium of claim 108 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 add a person to a blacklist.

1 111. The medium of claim 108 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

1 112. The medium of claim 97 wherein people associated with the user are people not  
2 distrusted by the user.

1 113. The medium of claim 112 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list such that  
3 communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam filtering.

1 114. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict received  
3 communications to those communications from people on the list.

1 115. The medium of claim 114 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 116. The medium of claim 114 wherein the communications are instant messages.

1 117. The medium of claim 1 wherein people associated with the user are people known to  
2 the user.

1 118. The medium of claim 117 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail  
3 such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from  
4 people not on the list are absent from the display.

1 119. The medium of claim 117 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail  
3 such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from  
4 people on the list are absent from the display.

1 120. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict which instant  
3 messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant messaging  
4 interfaces associated with people on the list.

1 121. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list operating in  
3 conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not on the list  
4 when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is  
5 inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 122. The medium of claim 121 wherein to filter communications, the computer program  
2 further comprises instructions for causing a computer to block the communications from  
3 people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the  
4 communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 123. The medium of claim 121 wherein to filter communications, the computer program  
2 further comprises instructions for causing a computer to placing communications from  
3 people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include indicia that the  
4 content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 124. The medium of claim 123 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child  
2 account user.

1 125. The medium of claim 121 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 126. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of the  
5 person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a contact list of the user.

1 127. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of the  
5 person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a buddy list of the user.

1 128. The medium of claim 97 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the inclusion of  
5 the person in a contact list of a person who the user has added to a buddy list of the user.

1 129. A computer usable medium have a computer program embodied thereon, wherein the  
2 computer program comprises instructions for causing a computer to perform the  
3 following operations:  
4 maintaining a list of people associated with a user;  
5 inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on a  
6 membership of the first person in a contact list that is associated with another person,  
7 wherein the contact list is not configured for direct access by the user;  
8 adding the inferred person to the list of people associated with the user; and  
9 using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based  
10 on whether the others are included on the list.

1 130. The medium of claim 129 wherein the person is included in a contact list of the user.

1 131. The medium of claim 130 wherein the contact list of the user is a buddy list.

1 132. The medium of claim 129 wherein the communications comprise e-mail  
2 communications, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a  
3 computer to infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on  
4 positive user actions related to e-mail communications from the person.



1 133. The medium of claim 132 wherein the positive actions include sending an e-mail to  
2 the person.

1 134. The medium of claim 132 wherein the positive actions include replying to,  
2 forwarding, saving, or printing an e-mail received from the person.

1 135. The medium of claim 132 wherein the positive actions include moving an e-mail  
2 from a first folder to a second folder.

1 136. The medium of claim 135 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second  
2 folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

1 137. The medium of claim 132 wherein the positive action includes maintaining an e-mail  
2 from the person in an open state for a predetermined period of time.

1 138. The medium of claim 130 wherein the computer program further comprises  
2 instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user  
3 based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the person.

1 139. The medium of claim 138 wherein the communication is an instant messaging  
2 communication.

1 140. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user,  
2 the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to detect  
3 user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to infer a person is  
4 associated with the user.

1 141. The medium of claim 140 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 report a communication from the person as spam.

1 142. The medium of claim 140 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 add a person to a blacklist.

1 143. The medium of claim 140 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

1 144. The medium of claim 129 wherein people associated with the user are people not  
2 distrusted by the user.

1 145. The medium of claim 144 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list such that  
3 communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam filtering.

1 146. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict received  
3 communications to those communications from people on the list.

1 147. The medium of claim 146 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 148. The medium of claim 146 wherein the communications are instant messages.

1 149. The medium of claim 129 wherein people associated with the user are people known  
2 to the user.

1 150. The medium of claim 149 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail  
3 such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from  
4 people not on the list are absent from the display.

1 151. The medium of claim 149 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail  
3 such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from  
4 people on the list are absent from the display.

1 152. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict which instant  
3 messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant messaging  
4 interfaces associated with people on the list.

1 153. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list operating in  
3 conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not on the list  
4 when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is  
5 inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 154. The medium of claim 153 wherein to filter communications, the computer program  
2 further comprises instructions for causing a computer to block the communications from  
3 people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the  
4 communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 155. The medium of claim 153 wherein to filter communications, the computer program  
2 further comprises instructions for causing a computer to placing communications from  
3 people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include indicia that the  
4 content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1 156. The medium of claim 155 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child  
2 account user.

1 157. The medium of claim 153 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 158. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of the  
5 person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a contact list of the user.

1 159. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of the  
5 person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a buddy list of the user.

1 160. The medium of claim 129 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the inclusion of  
5 the person in a contact list of a person who the user has added to a buddy list of the user.

1 161. A computer usable medium have a computer program embodied thereon, wherein the  
2 computer program comprises instructions for causing a computer to perform the  
3 following operations:  
4 maintaining a list of people associated with a user;  
5 inferring that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the  
6 characteristics of one or more contact lists associated with other users, wherein the  
7 contact lists associated with the other users include communication identifiers selected by  
8 the other users;  
9 adding the inferred person to the list of people associated with the user; and  
10 using the list to control aspects of communications between the user and others based  
11 on whether the others are included on the list.

1 162. The medium of claim 161 wherein the person is included in a contact list of the user.

1 163. The medium of claim 162 wherein the contact list of the user is a buddy list.

1 164. The medium of claim 161 wherein the communications comprise e-mail  
2 communications, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a

3 computer to infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on  
4 positive user actions related to e-mail communications from the person.

1 165. The medium of claim 164 wherein the positive actions include sending an e-mail to  
2 the person.

1 166. The medium of claim 164 wherein the positive actions include replying to,  
2 forwarding, saving, or printing an e-mail received from the person.

1 167. The medium of claim 164 wherein the positive actions include moving an e-mail  
2 from a first folder to a second folder.

1 168. The medium of claim 167 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second  
2 folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

1 169. The medium of claim 164 wherein the positive action includes maintaining an e-mail  
2 from the person in an open state for a predetermined period of time.

1 170. The medium of claim 161 wherein the computer program further comprises  
2 instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user  
3 based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the person.

1 171. The medium of claim 170 wherein the communication is an instant messaging  
2 communication.

1 172. The medium of claim 161 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user,  
2 the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to detect  
3 user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to infer a person is  
4 associated with the user.

1 173. The medium of claim 172 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 report a communication from the person as spam.

1 174. The medium of claim 172 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 add a person to a blacklist.

1 175. The medium of claim 172 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to  
2 move a communication from the person to at least one of a spam folder or a delete folder.

1 176. The medium of claim 161 wherein people associated with the user are people not  
2 distrusted by the user.

1 177. The medium of claim 176 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list such that  
3 communications received from people on the list are exempt from spam filtering.

1 178. The medium of claim 161 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict received  
3 communications to those communications from people on the list.

1 179. The medium of claim 178 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1 180. The medium of claim 178 wherein the communications are instant messages.

1 181. The medium of claim 161 wherein people associated with the user are people known  
2 to the user.

1 182. The medium of claim 181 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail  
3 such that e-mails from people on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from  
4 people not on the list are absent from the display.

1 183. The medium of claim 181 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2 comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to filter a display of e-mail

3       such that e-mails from people not on the list are shown on the display and e-mails from  
4       people on the list are absent from the display.

1       184.   The medium of claim 161 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2       comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list to restrict which instant  
3       messaging interfaces display an online presence of the user to those instant messaging  
4       interfaces associated with people on the list.

1       185.   The medium of claim 161 wherein, to use the list, the computer program further  
2       comprises instructions for causing a computer to use the list as a white list operating in  
3       conjunction with parental controls to filter communications from people not on the list  
4       when the communications include indicia that the content of the communication is  
5       inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1       186.   The medium of claim 185 wherein to filter communications, the computer program  
2       further comprises instructions for causing a computer to block the communications from  
3       people not on the list when the communications include indicia that the content of the  
4       communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1       187.   The medium of claim 185 wherein to filter communications, the computer program  
2       further comprises instructions for causing a computer to placing communications from  
3       people not on the list in a spam folder the communications include indicia that the  
4       content of the communication is inappropriate for a teen or child account user.

1       188.   The medium of claim 187 wherein the spam folder is locked from the teen or child  
2       account user.

1       189.   The medium of claim 185 wherein the communications are e-mails.

1       190.   The medium of claim 161 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2       based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3       the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to

4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of the  
5 person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a contact list of the user.

1 191. The medium of claim 161 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on inclusion of the  
5 person in a contact list of a person who is listed in a buddy list of the user.

1 192. The medium of claim 161 wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user  
2 based, at least in part, on inclusion of the person in a contact list of a person other than  
3 the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to  
4 infer that a person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the inclusion of  
5 the person in a contact list of a person who the user has added to a buddy list of the user.